with the requisite incentives to motivate them towards higher efficiency in power production and supply. It has, however, not issued any directive to the State Electricity Boards in regard to the impoved service conditions for the technicians.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Prices of drugs needed for national Health programme

2418. SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that non-inclusion of medicines needed for National Health Programme under Price Control has resulted in hike in the prices of these medicines by 50 per cent ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that wholesale price index shows an increase in prices of medicines by over 70 per cent ; and

(c) whether his Ministry has taken any steps on the recommendations of the expert committee appointed to review the list of drugs for price control under Category-I?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : (a) The prices of non-scheduled drugs are determined by the manufacturers themselves. This is as per the provisions of DPCO, 1987.

(b) These details are not readily available.

(c) No such committee has been constituted by this Ministry.

Permits for Oil Tanker services

2419. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of permits given during the last six months for operating oil tanker services in the Southern region;

(b) what is the number of such permits given to the unemployed graduates; and

(c) what is the number of such tanker owners who have actually made use of these permits and what checks are being devised by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Permits to tanker operators are issued and controlled by the Regional Transport Authorities of the State Governments and not by the Oil Companies. The Oil Companies award contracts for transportation of petroleum products on the basis of public tender and there is no reservation for any category including unemployed graduates. During the last six months the Oil Companies have awarded 348 contracts for transportation of petroleum products in the Southern region.

Over-Invoicing in Dexamethasone

2420. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 90 and 151 given in Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state:

(a) what are the names of the small scale units producing Dexona which are not covered under price control;

(b) whether it is a fact that these companies have not taken price app-

roval of certain products which are under price control; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) to (c) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Prices of Neosporin H Ointment

2421. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 16 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the company is continuing selling Neosporin H Ointment and Neosporin H ear drops at pre-revised prices on the plea of filing a representation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prosecution was launched in a similar case of Paracetamol by Rajasthan Government on the advise of his Ministry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that instances of over-charging of prices of Combiflame, Proxyvon, Dexona range of formulations, Pyrazinamide etc. come to the notice of his Ministry; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for which prosectuion against these companies has not been launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) and (b) The revised prices have already been fixed under DPCO, 1987 on 26-6-1989 for these products as per details given below:

S.No.	Name of the formulation	Pack size	M.R. Price
1	Neosporin H Ointment.	5 gm Tube	5.32
2	Neosporin H Ear Drops	5 ml Vial	7.55

(c) and (d) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Pending applications for LPG connetions in Maharashtra

2422. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total backlog of applications for LPG connections in Maharashtra ; and

(b) what steps the Central Government are taking to clear this backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) As on the Ist July, 1989, the number of persons on the waiting list for release of new LPG connections in Maharashtra was approximately 8.30 lakhs.